

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 IO-13 DHA-02 /101 W  
-----271701Z 085406 /43

P R 271630Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8638  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BONN 09115

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, GW, XJ, SF, XF,  
SUBJECT: FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS ON ZAIRE, SOUTHERN  
AFRICAN MATTERS, AND MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS

REFS: (A) STATE 119749; (B) STATE 119938; (C) BONN 8714  
(D) BONN 8967

SUMMARY: A SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIAL ON THIRD WORLD  
MATTERS (LAHN) HAS TOLD US THAT MOBUTU'S POSITION  
APPEARS GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY THE SHABA INVASION,  
WHILE ZAIRE'S ECONOMY WAS NOT DAMAGED AS MUCH AS EX-  
PECTED. LAHNSAID THAT THE CONGO HAS MADE A  
DEFINITE TURN IN ITS POLICY AND THAT ITS EFFORTS TO  
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REESTABLISH TIES WITH THE US WERE SERIOUS AND IMPORTANT.  
HE SAID THAT THE FRG WILL CLOSE ITS CONSULATE GENERAL  
IN NAMIBIA. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE THE POINTS  
PROVIDED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VERY HELPFUL INSTRUCTIONS,  
AND GENERALLY FOUND LAHN SYMPATHETIC TO OUR VIEWS.  
LAHN WAS ALSO, HOWEVER, CONCERNED THAT PUSHING SOUTH AFRICA  
TOO HARD ON ITS INTERNAL POLITICS MIGHT JEOPARDIZE OUR

OBJECTIVES IN NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. LAHN, FRG ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF AFRICA, ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, COVERED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS DURING A LUNCHEON ON MAY 26 WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR:

ZAIRE.

--LAHN SAID THAT FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER HAD VISITED ZAIRE AT LAHN'S SUGGESTION IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE BY HIS PERSONAL PRESENCE THE GERMAN SUPPORT NOT ONLY FOR ZAIRE ITSELF BUT FOR THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT AFRICAN BOUNDARIES SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY MILITARY ACTION. GENSCHER HAD NOT PLANNED TO GO TO SHABA BUT HAD BEEN PREVAILED UPON TO DO SO BY MOBUTU.

--GENSCHER'S AND LAHN'S IMPRESSIONS WERE THAT MOBUTU'S POSITION HAS BEEN GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY THE ATTACK IN SHABA AND BY HIS SUCCESS IN REPELLING IT. IN FACT, LAHN SAID, ONE WOULD ALMOST HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT MOBUTU STAGED THE WHOLE THING BECAUSE NOTHING ELSE COULD HAVE BETTER SUITED HIS POLITICAL NEEDS AT THIS TIME. HIS MOOD IN HIS MEETINGS WITH GENSCHER WAS POSITIVE AND EXPANSIVE. ALL INDICATIONS THAT THE GERMANS COULD OBSERVE ALSO SUGGEST THAT MOBUTU'S POLITICAL SUPPORT HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED. CONFIDENTIAL

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--MOBUTU TOLD GENSCHER, ACCORDING TO LAHN, THAT THE WAR HAD NOT DRAINED THE ZAIRE ECONOMY AS MUCH AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. MOBUTU SAID THAT COMPANIES LOCATED IN SHABA (LAHN PRESUMED THESE WERE PRIMARILY BELGIAN COMPANIES) HAD PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE DEFENSE EFFORT. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOME AFRICAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES HAD SENT ASSISTANCE. IN ADDITION, LAHN BELIEVED, THE IMF CONTROLS HELPED THE ZAIRE ECONOMY SURVIVE THE CONFLICT.

--THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE THE POINTS IN REF A. LAHN SAID THE FRG HAD NOT YET DEVELOPED ITS POSITION ON THE MEETINGS IN QUESTION BUT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING OUR VIEWS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IMF ROLE.

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US/CONGO RELATIONS.

--LAHN SAID THE FRG BELIEVED THE CONGO WAS  
SINCERELY INTERESTED IN IMPROVING TIES WITH THE WEST  
AND IN ESTABLISHING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED  
STATES. HE SAID THAT THE LATE PRESIDENT N'GOUABI HAD  
ALREADY BEEN MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION, AND THAT YHOMBI-  
OPANGO AND OBENGA WERE VERY INTERESTED. HE SAID THAT  
OBENGA, DURING A CONVERSATION WITH GENSCHER, HAD SPOKEN  
OF "MES AMIS AMERICAINS".

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--LAHN SAID THAT THIS APPEARED TO MIRROR THE GENERAL REVERSAL IN THE CONGO'S POLICY. HE RECALLED THAT BRAZZAVILLE HAD SERVED AS AN IMPORTANT TRANSPORT CENTER FOR SOVIET ARMS TO ANGOLA, AND SAID THAT ANY SUCH FURTHER CONGOLESE HELP TO THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOW BE OUT OF THE QUESTION.

NAMIBIA.

--THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE THE POINTS IN STATE 118809 AS RECOMMENDED IN REF B. LAHN SAID THAT GERMAN THINKING GENERALLY RAN ALONG THE SAME LINES AS OURS, AND THAT THE FRG WAS COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONTACT GROUP.

--LAHN ADDED THAT THE FRG HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED TO CLOSE THE CONSULATE AT WINDHOEK. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS HAD BEEN A DIFFICULT DECISION BUT THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD OVER THE LONG RUN ENABLE THE FRG BETTER TO HELP ITS NATIONALS IN NAMIBIA. HE OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT THOSE NATIONALS WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE IN THE COURSE OF WHATEVER POLITICAL PROCESS MIGHT BE CHOSEN. IN THE MEANTIME, HE SAID, GERMAN PROTECTION SERVICES WOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH ITS OFFICE IN CAPETOWN.

--LAHN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA. HE THOUGHT THE OPPOSITION WOULD CHARGE THE FRG WITH HAVING ABANDONED GERMAN NATIONALS. HOWEVER, HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE POLICY THAT WOULD NOT DAMAGE GERMAN INTERESTS EVEN MORE OVER THE LONG RUN.

SOUTH AFRICA.

--LAHN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US VIEWS BASED ON REF B. HE SAID THE FRG FULLY AGREED WITH US ON THE NEED

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TO MOVE FORWARD IN SOUTH AFRICA AND WOULD WORK WITH US AS APPROPRIATE.

--LAHN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE US AND THE EUROPEAN NATIONS TO PUSH THE SOUTH AFRICANS TOO HARD AND TOO FAST ON APARTHEID AT THIS POINT. HE SAID THAT WE NEEDED SOUTH AFRICAN SUPPORT TO GET SETTLEMENTS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, AND THAT THOSE SETTLEMENTS REPRESENTED OUR MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES RIGHT NOW. IF WE ATTACKED SOUTH AFRICA TOO SHARPLY, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT NOT BE ABLE POLITICALLY TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT OF OUR OBJECTIVES

IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA AND MIGHT EVEN FALL INTO THE  
HANDS OF ELEMENTS MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN THOSE NOW IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 BONN 09115

POWER.

THE MIDDLE EAST.

--LAHN EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE OUTCOME  
OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS. IT APPEARED TO HIM THAT THE  
ONLY HOPE WAS THAT THE LIKUD WOULD NEED YADIN'S 15 VOTES  
TO HAVE A WORKABLE MAJORITY AND THAT THIS WOULD FORCE THE  
LIKUD TO MODERATE SOME OF ITS EXTREME POSITIONS.

--LAHN SAID THAT IF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT PER-  
SISTED IN ITS REFUSAL TO YIELD THE LEFT BANK AND IF THE  
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LIKUD CARRIED OUT THE PLEDGE TO SETTLE THE WEST BANK HEAVILY, THE ARABS WOULD HOLD A CONFERENCE THAT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY DECIDE ON AN OIL EMBARGO WHICH THE SAUDIS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REJECT. THIS COULD MEAN MAJOR PROBLEMS IN WESTERN ECONOMIES AND POLITICS.

MAPUTO AND RHODESIA.

--DUE TO TIME LIMITATIONS, MAPUTO AND RHODESIA WERE NOT COVERED EXTENSIVELY. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR MADE THE POINTS ON MAPUTO IN REF B, AND LAHN EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT. THE ONLY EXCHANGE ON RHODESIA WAS A SUMMARY OBSERVATION THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE MOVING THE SITUATION THERE TOWARD MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, GE, XJ, SF, XF  
**To:** STATE  
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